What is claimed is:

1.   A method for predicting the survival time of a subject having multiple sclerosis, comprising:

a) obtaining a sample from a subject having multiple sclerosis; and

b) evaluating the DNA of the sample for the presence of a mutation in the CCR5 gene, wherein the mutation correlates to reduced survival of subjects having multiple sclerosis.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the mutation is a deletion.

3.   The method of claim 2, wherein the deletion is CCR5 delta 32.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the sample is whole blood.

5.   The method of claim 2, wherein the sample is whole blood.

6.   The method of claim 3, wherein the sample is whole blood.